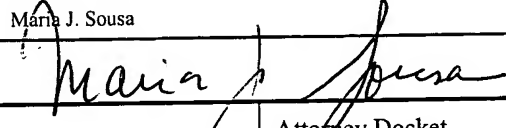


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| I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. | | | |
| Typed or Printed Name | Maria J. Sousa | | |
| Signature |  | Date | September 24, 2003 |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT Address to: BOX: Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 | | Attorney Docket | GUID-008CON2 |
| | | First Named Inventor | Federico J. Benetti |
| | | Application Number | Unassigned |
| | | Filing Date | Herewith |
| | | Group Art Unit | Unassigned |
| | | Examiner Name | Unassigned |
| | | Title | Xyphoid Access for Cardiac Surgical Procedures. |

Sir:

This is an Information Disclosure Statement submitted for the Examiner's consideration.

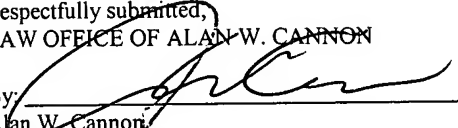
A Form PTO-1449 listing the references accompany this paper. Applicants would appreciate the Examiner's initialing and returning the form to indicate that the references have been reviewed and made of record. Copies of the references identified herein which were disclosed in parent applications Serial No. 09/757,128, filed January 8, 2001 which is a Continuation of Serial No. 09/071,757, filed May 1,1998 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,199,556); are not included herein, pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. Section 1.98(d).

This Information Disclosure Statement is not intended as a representation that a search has been made, that additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist, or that any one of the above references constitutes prior art to the present application within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §102.

Date: September 24, 2003

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Respectfully submitted,
 LAW OFFICE OF ALAN W. CANNON

By: 
 Alan W. Cannon
 Registration No. 34,977

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| | APPLICANT Federico J. Benetti, et al. | |
| | FILING DATE Herewith | GROUP Unassigned |

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